



State of Arizona
Department of Education

To: Parents/Guardians of Arizona Public School Students

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Subject: Information on AZELLA Spring 2012 Field Test
Arizona English Language Learner Assessment "AZELLA"

All states, including Arizona, are required to have a test that will identify English language learners based on their English language proficiency. During the past year, the Arizona Department of Education has collaborated with a national assessment vendor and Arizona educators to refine the test for Arizona's English language learners (ELLs).

In order to determine if the revised test, the AZELLA, does a good job identifying ELLs, the test has a try-out, called a field test. The AZELLA field test, will be administered around the state to many Kindergarten students beginning April 23, 2012 and ending May 11, 2012. The field test will be administered to a scientific sample of students in order to collect and measure data that will enable ADE to create a valid and fair AZELLA. The actual test will be administered beginning in Spring 2013.

It is essential that both ELL and non-ELL students participate in the try out. Important information will be gained to make sure the test questions can differentiate between ELL and not-ELL students.

The information from this test will not be made available to the school and the results will not be used for student identification or placement. The test is needed to collect information on the test questions, not the students. Participating in the AZELLA Field Test is mandatory for identified students.

Thank you in advance for your support of the Spring 2012 AZELLA Field Test activities. We consider carefully any activity that takes time from regular classroom instruction. AZELLA is an important educational tool to determine appropriate education for the students of Arizona.

If you have any questions regarding the AZELLA, please contact your student's school for more information. You may also refer to the Arizona Department of Education's website at www.azed.gov/english-language-learners/azella/. Thank you for your support of this important project.